

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC EXCHANGES: PROGRAM BALANCE

REF: BELGRADE 4529

1. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES AND HARD SCIENCES SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN TRAVEL ONLY GRANTS AS WELL AS OTHER PARTS OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH BFS WHICH CONCURS WITH THIS POSITION AND RECOMMENDS KEEPING PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVS AS LONG AS IT IS DONE WITH FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD SENSE.

2. AT SAME TIME, WE SEE SOME SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRAVEL ONLY AND FULL GRANT CATEGORIES WHICH MAY CALL FOR A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT APPROACH. FOR ONE THING, WE NOTE THAT PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL ONLY GRANTS CONTAIN GOOD NUMBER OF NOMINEES IN BIO-MEDICAL SCIENCES GOING TO U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS HOSPITALS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES. WE PRESUME THAT, IF SAME HOLDS TRUE WITH CURRENT BATCH OF 40, EMBASSY HAS COUNTED THEM IN HARD SCIENCES CATEGORY, WHICH WE DO NOT DISPUTE, BUT WHICH DOES SEEM SOME-
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WHAT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER HARD SCIENCE DISCIPLINES. LEAV-

ING BALANCE QUESTION ASIDE, BRINGING A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV BIO-MEDICAL RESEARCHERS TO THE U.S. WOULD SEEM TO BE CLEARLY IN INTEREST OF BOTH YUGOSLAV AND AMERICAN SIDES.

3. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION, WHICH WE ARE SURPRISED YUGOSLAVS HAVE NOT MENTIONED, IS RELATIVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING FUNDS FOR U.S. GRANTS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES AS OPPOSED TO RESEARCH IN HARD SCIENCES, LATTER WHICH ARE EXTENSIVELY SUBSIDIZED BY USG GRANTS TO PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

4. FURTHER MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCE IS WHETHER YUGOSLAVS HAVE FORMALLY AGREED TO RESTORE BALANCE IN AY 76 OR ONLY IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR COVERED BY THE 1977-78 PROGRAM.

5. EMBASSY IS IN BETTER POSITION TO EVALUATE EFFECT OF FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS IN CURRENT IMBROGLIO. BASED ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE FACTORS, WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH EMBASSY STRATEGY FOR JULY 19 MEETING (PARA 6, REFTEL). BY EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW TEMPORARY IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF HARD SCIENCES PENDING ADDITIONAL COMPETITION, EMBASSY IS DEMONSTRATING FLEXIBILITY AND DESIRE TO ACHIEVE REASONABLE COMPROMISE. WE ASSUME YUGOSLAV POSITION HAS NOT SO HARDENED THAT THIS STRATEGY WILL RESULT IN MAJOR CONFRONTATION. WE WILL WITHHOLD FINAL DECISION ON DOLLARS 35,000 SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST FROM AYEC BUT IRRESPECTIVE OF OUTCOME OF JULY 19 MEETING, WE DOUBT THAT ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION CAN BE PROVIDED. FYI EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT CU/EE IN JUNE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DOLS 98,000 TO CIES AND IIE FOR USE IN YUGOSLAV ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND THAT CU/EE FY 1976 FINAL OBLIGATION TALLY FOR ALL YUGOSLAV PROGRAMS WAS DOLS 691,380 WHICH WAS HIGHEST TOTAL FOR ANY EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY. KISSINGER

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